

RESPONSE

Support

Applicants have amended claims 1, 15 and 18 to specify that the fibers include at least one fiber type selected from a list consisting of fiberglass, microglass, carbon fibers, coated carbon fibers, polyester fibers, polyimide fibers, polyamide fibers, acrylic fiber, cellulose fibers, rayon, nylon, asbestos, polyvinyl chloride fibers and combinations thereof. Support for this amendment is found in claim 6, as well on page 4, lines 16 to 21 of the specification.

Claim 7 has been amended to depend on claim 1, instead of claim 6, and claim 17 has been amended to correct a typo, as the claim previously referred to claim 15 as a composition claim when it is in fact a method claim. Support for these amendments comes from the claims themselves.

Applicants have also cancelled claims 6 and 16.

No other elements of the claims have been changed.

Response

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 and 8-20 under U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Nguyen et al (US 5039549). Claim 7 was objected to for depending on a rejected base claim. No other rejections or objections were made.

Applicants have amended the claims to specify that the fibers of the present invention include one or more selected from the group consisting of fiberglass, microglass, carbon fibers, coated carbon fibers, polyester fibers, polyimide fibers, polyamide fibers, acrylic fiber, cellulose fibers, rayon, nylon, asbestos, and polyvinyl chloride fibers. This list does not include the polyethylene fibers of Nguyen.

Applicants note that the reference does not provide any teaching with regards to these fibers types, but rather is focused on polyethylene fibers (see col 2, lines 46-55 of Nguyen). Applicants respectfully submit that just as claim 7 was found to be novel over the reference, all claims are now novel, as the fibers specified in the claims do not include the polyethylene fibers of Nguyen.

Applicants further submit that in addition to being novel, the present claims are non-obvious over the reference. First, because there is no teaching in Nguyen of the

fiber types specified by the present claims. Second, because Nguyen clearly states that the polyethylene fibers it discusses are preferred. Nguyen therefore teaches away from the use of fibers other than its preferred polyethylene fibers. Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are therefore non-obvious over Nguyen and no 103 rejection based on Nguyen should be made.

Conclusion.

For the foregoing reasons it is submitted that the present claims are novel and unobvious over the cited reference, and in condition for allowance. The foregoing remarks are believed to be a full and complete response to the outstanding office action. Therefore an early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that only minor issues remain to be resolved, a telephone call to the Undersigned is suggested.

Any required fees or any deficiency or overpayment in fees should be charged or credited to deposit account 12-2275 (The Lubrizol Corporation).

Respectfully submitted,

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